From: Andrew Ettinger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am a software developer and a senior in Computer and Information Science program at the University of Oregon.

Laissez-faire economics works in many other industries, but not in computing. Computers, being precise machines, allow vendors to 'close' their standards, and without being able to reverse-engineer anymore, settling the Microsoft case in the proposed manner is a horrible idea. They have a long history of stifling development with software that is easily cracked, bullying opponents, and overcharging for their services via closed standards and overt political practices.

Please don't allow them to continue for the sake of our industry. Everyone can play together, work together, and play and work fairly and still make money and provide great service. Their practices are underhanded and should be punished. But fundamentally, the government needs to realize that open computing standards are what creates a laissez-faire computing industry, which is what is best for the developers and the consumer.

Thank you,

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